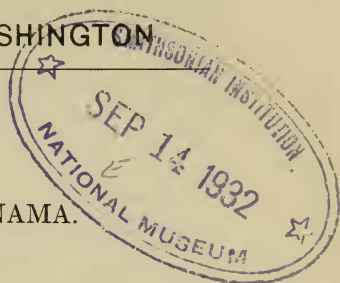


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW WEASEL FROM PANAMA.

BY E. RAYMOND HALL.

In a study of American weasels several previously unrecognized races are found which require naming and description. One of these is here characterized, in a preliminary fashion—in advance of publication of the results of the uncompleted general study—in deference to the wishes of Mr. Gerritt S. Miller, Jr. (to whom I am indebted for the loan of many indispensable specimens) who has asked me now to place on record any new forms which require selection of the type-specimens from the collection of the United States National Museum, and thus permit of a greater degree of completion in his forthcoming list of type specimens in the National collection. Accordingly, I have extracted from my manuscript selected lines of the account of the Panama weasel, which will fulfill the requirements above indicated.

Mustela frenata panamensis, new subspecies.

Type.—Female, subadult, skull and skin; no. 170970, U. S. Nat. Mus., Biol. Surv. Coll.; Rio Indio, Canal Zone, near Gatun, Panama; February 17, 1911; collected by E. A. Goldman; original no. 20897.

Range.—Sea level (type locality) to 5800 feet (Boquete, see Bangs [Mus. Comp. Zool., 39, 51, 1902]); Upper and Lower Tropical zones of Panama.

Diagnosis.—Differs from both *M. f. meridana* and *M. f. costaricensis* in darker tone (tone 4 of pl. 344 of Oberthür and Dauthenay, Répertoire de couleurs . . . , 1905) of color of upper parts and in convex dorsal outline of skull.

Size.—Male: Two adults, nos. 10112 and 10113, Mus. Comp. Zool., measure respectively, as follows: total length, 480 and 400; length of tail, 170 and 143; length of hind foot, 52 and 43. Female (type specimen): total length, 408; length of tail, 159; length of hind foot, 46.5.

Remarks.—*Mustela frenata panamensis* is one of the two darkest colored

weasels; *M. f. aureoventris* Gray is the other. Also, *M. f. panamensis* has the dorsal face of the skull more convex in longitudinal axis than any other weasel. That this race previously has not been named probably is accounted for by the fact that specimens from Panama were supposed to represent *Mustela affinis* Gray until 1916, when Allen (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 35, p. 100, 1916) restricted the type locality of *M. affinis* to Bogota, Colombia. At that time Allen referred specimens from Panama to *Mustela affinis costaricensis*, and Goldman (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vol. 69, no. 5, p. 161, 1920) followed Allen in this.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 7, all from Panama, as follows: Boquete, 5; Rio Indio, near Gatun, 1; Mount Pirre, 1.

Transmitted August 18, 1932.